R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better U.S. form and more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to the claims are clarifying in nature and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 2002/0133412 ("Oliver et al") and USP 2001/0020242 ("Gupta et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a network service applying apparatus is provided which comprises an accepting server and memory, wherein the accepting server inputs (receives) a requested domain name to be associated with a memory area accessible via a network, and inputs (receives) and stores credit information of a user who is to be assigned with the memory area specified by the domain name. The accepting server then sends out the credit information and receives examination result data indicating allowance or denial of a credit. The accepting server then determines whether the memory area to be associated with the input domain name is to be assigned to the user based on the received examination result data and, when having decided to assign the memory area to the user, inputs user information for specifying the user, and generates and outputs ID data for identifying the user. The accepting server then stores in the memory the user information in association with the ID data and the domain name. Then, when the ID data and a notification (indicating that the user identified by the ID data has given a third party a right to receive a network connection service) are externally received, the accepting server generates and outputs network connection ID data for identifying the third party, and a password associated with the network connection ID data.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claim 3, moreover, the requested domain name is input as a domain name to be newly assigned, and the accepting server sends out the requested domain name and receives assignment status report data indicating whether the requested domain name has already been assigned, and stops inputting the credit information when the received assignment status report data indicates that the requested domain name has already been assigned.

With the system of the claimed present invention, a user is enabled to efficiently secure a unique domain name and an asscociated memory area for hosting the domain name.

The invention disclosed in Oliver et al, by contrast, is merely "a mechanism for sharing client information and charges among a plurality of service providers." More specifically, in the system of Oliver et al, once a user has logged in (see paragraph [0130]), the user can utilize various pay services and free services on networks in which the system is installed, during the duration of one session, without necessity of further logging in and reauthentication (see paragraph [0298]).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Oliver et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 whereby the accepting server determines whether a memory area to be

associated with an input domain name is to be assigned to a user based on received examination result data and, when having decided to assign the memory area to the user, inputs user information for specifying the user, and generates and outputs ID data for identifying the user. That is, it is respectfully submitted that Oliver et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of determining whether or not a memory area is to be assigned to a user, as according to the present invention as recited in clarified amended independent claim 1.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Oliver et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended claim 3 whereby the requested domain name is input as a domain name to be newly assigned, and the accepting server sends out the requested domain name and receives assignment status report data indicating whether the requested domain name has already been assigned, and stops inputting the credit information when the received assignment status report data indicates that the requested domain name has already been assigned. That is, it is respectfully submitted that Oliver et al does not disclose, teach or suggest anything about determining whether or not a domain name has already been issued, as according to the present invention as recited in clarified amended claim 3.

Gupta et al, moreover, has merely been cited for the disclosure of the use of a username and password, and it is respectfully submitted that the method and apparatus disclosed in Gupta et al merely collects information of a website which a user has accessed, the time for which the user has browsed the website, and the contents of search (see paragraph [0057]), and based on this information, customizes for each user information to be provided to the users (see paragraph [0062]).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, and each of amended claims 2-4 depending therefrom, patentably distinguishes over Oliver et al and Gupta et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 and independent claims 5-8 and claims 2-4 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguish over Oliver et al and Gupta et al taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: THE IDS FILED NOVEMBER 9, 2004

_____It is respectfully submitted that the non-patent literature publications listed on the PTO/SB/08B submitted with the IDS filed November 9, 2004, have been submitted and are available in

the USPTO's IFW system. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the IDS filed November 9, 2004 be fully considered and that the non-patent literature publications listed on the PTO/SB/08B submitted with the IDS filed November 9, 2004, be considered and made of record.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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